

Civil War Monument
Monument Park
Adrian
Lenawee County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-233

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MICH.
16-ADRI,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADRIAN MI-233
FOLLOWS...

CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

LOCATION

Monument Park

Adrian, Lenawee County, Michigan

Latitude: 41° 53' 49"

Longitude: 84° 01' 43"

PRESENT OWNER

City of Adrian

PRESENT USE

Monument

STATEMENT OF
SIGNIFICANCE

The column portion of the Civil War Monument is said to be the only surviving fragment of the Bank of Pennsylvania, once located in Philadelphia. Greek Revival architecture in America had its birth in the Bank of Pennsylvania. The Bank was designed by Benjamin H. Latrobe in the spring of 1798.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Although the monument was erected on July 4, 1870 it originally was a column on the Bank of Pennsylvania constructed in Philadelphia from 1799-1801. The Bank was demolished in 1868 and the column shipped to Adrian in 1869.
2. Architect: Benjamin H. Latrobe was born in England on May 1, 1764. He emigrated to America in 1796. One of the finest architects to practice in America, Latrobe's office constituted the first professional training in engineering and architecture. The Bank of Pennsylvania, one of Latrobe's first commissions, became the progenitor of the Greek Revival.

B. Historical Events or Persons associated with the Building:

"Latrobe's Bank of Pennsylvania, with its Greek Ionic porticoes and its graceful low dome in the Soane manner with its open and monumental plan and its combination of classic dignity and originality, was thus a completely new thing... (Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America). The monument is said to be the only surviving fragment of the Bank of Philadelphia. It was through the solicitation of the Adrian Monument Association's president, Henry Waldron, then in Congress, that an opportunity arose for the town to obtain the column. Through the further efforts of

F.C. Beaman, another member of Congress from Adrian's district, and J. Fred Myers of Washington, a former resident of Adrian, the shaft was offered to the association by Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury.

C. Sources of Information

1. Adrian Daily Telegram, August 8, 1963.
2. Dictionary of American Biography Vol 11. New York, Charles Scribner's and Sons, 1928.
3. Hamlin, Talbot Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York, Dover Publications, Inc. 1944.
4. History and Biographical Record of Lenawee County, Michigan Vol I. Adrian, W. Stearns & Company, Printers, 1879.
5. Illustrated History and Biographical Record of Lenawee County, Michigan. Adrian, The Times Printing Company, 1903.
6. Times & Expositor (Adrian), July 5, 1870.

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: The shaft of this monument is the only known fragment that remains from Benjamin H. Latrobe's Bank of Pennsylvania built in 1801.
2. Condition of Fabric : Good

B. Description of Exterior

1. The monument:

The Civil War Monument consists of a single Ionic

column, carrying a stone urn, and supported on an octagonal base three stages high.

This column, salvaged from the Bank of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA., is unfluted, made of nine high and eight low drums, which alternate. It is light gray in color, slightly warm in tone, with horizontal veining. The capital, which is said to resemble those of the Temple on the Illisus in Athens, is complete except for part of one volute and a small part of the abacus, on the south side. The volutes face north and south.

The lowest stage of the base consists of two plain courses of large sandstone blocks, which project successively to form a foundation; the lower course has a hammered texture. The upper course bears the incised legend on the north face: "1870 -- Erected by citizens of Adrian in memory of our fallen soldiers." On the south face, similarly, is the inscription: "By such as these was our union saved in the great struggle of '61 - '65."

The second stage consists of a plinth which is beveled on the upper and lower edges, a torus, a fillet and an inverted cyma recta. Above this is the main portion of this stage; each of the eight faces projects slightly, leaving recessed corners, and is paneled. Each panel has a narrow

moulding, and is semicircular at the head; it is filled with a bronze tablet listing names of soldiers. This second stage is crowned by a torus.

The base of the third stage consists of a fillet, inverted cyma recta, fillet and bevel. Its eight faces are similar to those below, but are smaller and do not contain any tablets. Its cornice consists of a fillet, cyma recta, fillet and torus; above these a fillet and inverted cyma recta offer transition to the Attic base of the column (no plinth).

2. Modern treatment of the base:

Around the lowest course of the monument is a narrow concrete curb, flush with the ground. A concrete curb about 1'-4" high surrounds the whole (six or seven feet outside the base of the monument), interrupted by walks and two steps at the north and south. The elevated areas thus formed on the east and west sides are planted with evergreen shrubs.

C. Description of Site

This monument is located in the center of Monument Park, which is bounded by East Maumee Street, Park Place, East Church Street and East Park Place. It is on axis with South Center Street, which the park interrupts. The ground is level. The park contains trees rather widely spaced, planted in an approximately

symmetrical pattern, and is planted to grass.

Modern concrete walks surround the base and extend diagonally to the corners of the park. Two slightly curved walks extend north and south, one on either side of the park. Two slightly curved walks extend north and south, one on either side of a mall. South of the principal monument are three smaller ones, commemorating the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II, respectively. The last is a formal granite slab with relief sculpture; the other two are large granite boulders, each carrying a bronze plaque.

Four small cannons are mounted in simple stone bases-one facing each cardinal point; these may date from the time of the principal monument.

Prepared by: Harley J. McKee, Architect NPS, August 8, 1965

Harry J. Hunderman, Michigan History
Division, January 1975

Addendum to:
CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
(Latrobe Column)
Monument Park
Adrian
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Washington, DC 20013-7127

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Data pages 1 through 6 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 7.

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LC-HABS-GS05-T-3341-101R	NORTH ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-3341-102L	WEST ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-3341-102R *	WEST ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-3341-103L *	SOUTH ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-T-3341-103R	SOUTH ELEVATION
	Left and right overlap: 80%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

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